

American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

AMATYC LEADERSHIP ON TEACHER PREPARATION

Goal: IMPROVING TEACHER KNOWLEDGE

Summary:

AMATYC has been engaged in the preparation of teachers of mathematics through two-year colleges for some time. It is recognized that an increasing number of prospective teachers begin their college experience at two-year colleges, and many future elementary and middle school teachers take all of their college-level mathematics and science coursework at these institutions. Two-year colleges must be integrally involved in teacher recruitment and preparation. Recognizing this, AMATYC leaders provide national leadership in the area of the preparation of teachers of mathematics through two-year colleges.

As an example, in March 1998 AMATYC President Sadie Bragg chaired a 3 day workshop which was a joint NSF and Virginia Urban Corridor Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation initiative. The role of two-year colleges in recruitment and preparation of mathematics teachers, and in cooperating with local school districts, was underlined.

Also by way of example, Past President, Susan Wood, is a frequent speaker in this area, and continues to provide leadership for AMATYC on this subject. Professor Wood spoke at ICME-9 in Japan on Teacher Prep in two-year colleges and talked about the role of AMATYC in this area.

Additionally, AMATYC is represented on various committees and boards through its leadership, most relevant to this is the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, MSEB, through which AMATYC is involved in MSEB teacher initiatives.

Purpose:

As recognized leaders in the field of Teacher Preparation in Mathematics at Two-Year Colleges, and as leaders of AMATYC, provide national leadership on committees, boards and conferences.

Accomplishments/Results:

A report Investing in Tomorrow's Teachers: The Integral Role of the Two-Year College in the Science and Mathematics Preparation of Prospective Teachers, which was widely disseminated, was produced as a result of the March 1998 national conference referenced above. Professor Wood's presentation in Japan was included in a special issue of the Community College Journal of Research and Practice.

Plans for the next 12 months:

Continue to participate in conferences, workshops etc. where the issue of the mathematical preparation of K-8 teachers is part of the event goals